COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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"The English are free only forty days, once in seven years; and, the use, which they then make of "their freedom, shows that they deserve to be enslaved all the rest of their lives."——ROUSSEAU:—Social Contract.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER.

LETTER I.

GENTLEMEN,—On the 10th of May last, I addressed a letter to you upon the subject of the waste of the public money, under the head of "*letter the first,*" it being then my intention to address a series of letters to you upon that, and other subjects, therewith connected. But, it being now become almost certain, that *a dissolution of the present parliament* will speedily take place, I propose to address to you about four or five letters thereupon, and upon your duties which will therefrom arise; which letters, that they may not be confounded with any others, I shall number from one to as many as they shall amount to.

Before I proceed to submit to you the observations and suggestions, which, upon the abovementioned subject, present themselves to my mind as being likely to be useful at the present moment, give me leave to express a hope, that you are duly impressed with the importance of the subject itself; for, if you regard, or, if you act as if you regarded, the days of an election as a time merely for keeping holiday and making a noise; as a time for assembling in a tumultuous manner, without running the risk of smarting under the lash of the law; if, like the slaves of Rome, whose tyrannical and cunning rulers let them loose, once in a while, to commit all manner of foolish and beastly acts, in order thereby to terrify their own children from the commission of such acts; if, like these degraded creatures, you suffer yourselves to be made the sport of those who solicit your votes, then, indeed, will you verify the assertion of the French writer, from whom I have selected my motto; then, indeed, will you deserve to be slaves all the rest of your lives. But, my hope is, and, indeed, my expectation is, that your conduct will be exactly the reverse; that, 1st, you will look back to the days of your forefathers, and revive in your minds the arduous and successful efforts, which, at various times, they made for the preservation of the privilege, which you will soon have an opportunity of exercising, and that you will duly reflect upon the nature of that privilege: that, 2dly, you will view, in its true light, the present situation of your country, and that you will diligently and impartially enquire, whether all the evils we endure, and all the dangers that threaten us, are not to be ascribed to the folly and baseness of those, who have possessed, and who have so shamefully abused, their privilege of choosing members of parliament; that, 3dly, you will enquire, whether, at any time heretofore, the members whom you have chosen, have held to their professed principles, or their promises, and that you will endeavour to ascertain the cause of their desertion of their principles and of you; that, 4thly, you will, beforehand, while you have time well to weigh and to consider, enquire, and resolve upon, what sort of men those ought to be whom you shall elect, and what sort of security you ought to demand for their holding to the principles which they profess; and that, 5thly, you will, as soon as may be, determine upon the very men for whom you will vote, and in support of whom, as your representatives in the parliament, as the makers of the laws to which you are to submit, as the guardians of your property and your personal freedom, you will use all the lawful means within your power. To assist you in these considerations and enquiries is the object of the letters that I am now beginning to address to you; and though I am well aware that the far greater part of you stand in need of no such assistance, yet I am persuaded, that want of the habit of reflecting in some, and want of leisure in others, have heretofore prevented them from forming right opinions upon the subject, and, under that persuasion, I cannot refrain from endeavouring to do some little in the way of guiding those opinions upon the present important occasion, begging you to bear in mind, however, that it is not my intention to offer *myself* to you as a candidate, unless it shall be found, that no other man in the kingdom has the public spirit to stand forward upon that ground, whereon alone I think any man ought to be chosen as a member of the House of Commons, and particularly as a

member to represent the City of Westminster.

1. In looking back to the days of our forefathers, we find them, in ancient times, fallen in a state of personal bondage to the few great possessors of the soil, who were the only part of the subjects of the king enjoying any thing worthy of the name of freedom; we find, that, from this degraded state they began to rise under the reigns of those Kings of England, who carried the English banners in triumph over the fields of France, who won and who left, as an everlasting memorial of the valour of Englishmen, those Lillies, which, only six years ago, were effaced from our arms; we find, that the right, or the duty, of voting for members of the House of Commons, which right had, by those gallant kings, been conferred upon every man not a mere bondsman, was, by a foolish and cowardly successor, restricted, in many cases, to persons having a certain portion of property of a particular kind; we find, that, in more recent times, the advisers of the kings, the creatures who swarm about a court, and who rob the people of their substance as the drone robs the industrious bee, contrived various means of rendering the representatives of the people the mere tools of the court, and, that, when unable to succeed in corrupting them to their purposes, they caused the parliament to be dissolved; we find, that, when this scheme had been tried to its utmost without success, a weak and bigot king endeavoured to govern without a parliament, and soon after we find him driven from his throne, the crown being settled in succession upon another family, and provision being made, a solemn compact being entered into, that, for ever afterwards, the people should have an opportunity of choosing a new House of Commons once in *three* years; we find, however, that a House of Commons, so elected, became parties to a law for depriving the people of this right, and for making the term *seven* years instead of three, from the passing of which law we may date the rapid decline of public liberty, and the no less rapid increase of the public burdens. Until that fatal day great and almost constant were the exertions of the people to maintain their due weight in the government; since that day, they have made but few and those very contemptible exertions; but, now, when they see that there is no hope left of safety from any other source, ought they not to rouze themselves? Ought they not to exert their power as often as it comes into their hands? The object of our ancestors in [illegible] their lives, for their rights as relating to the choice of members of parliament, was, to keep a check upon the power of the crown; to prevent the king, or his favourites, from taking from them any more of their property than what should be found necessary for the support of the government and for the carrying into effect such measures as should be found requisite for the good of the nation in general; to prevent their substance from being drawn from them to fatten idlers and profligates; to prevent any part of their fellow subjects from becoming oppressors of the rest; to prevent, in short, the loss of their freedom and of the enjoyments therefrom arising. The *means* was the power, given to representatives of the people, of *refusing to grant money to the king*. And, when I say the power, I mean the *real* power of refusing, and not the mere *nominal* power of refusing; for, if the power be merely nominal, it is no power at all; and, if it be *never exercised*, it is merely nominal.

"To what," some one may say, "does "all this tend, but to convince me, that all "exertions on the part of the electors "would be useless?" Yet, this is not so. The fault has been with the *independent* electors; for, though, owing to several causes, there always will be, until a material change in the representation takes place, a great majority in favour of whomsoever is minister; though the representation arising from the decayed boroughs will always produce, in point of mere numbers, the means of overbalancing any thing that can be done by the independent electors, still, these latter, are able, if they were willing, to make such a choice as would be a sufficient means of protection against all the schemes of oppression that ambition or rapacity could devise. The electors of boroughs, where their numbers are small, or where they are, in some way or other, dependent upon one or two rich men; the electors of such places, whether they actually take bribes, or not, have some excuse for becoming the miserable and degraded tools of a corruptor. Their crime is, indeed, detestable; they deserve to be held in execration; their names ought to be inscribed upon the gallows-tree, after their carcases have therefrom been carried piece-meal by the fowls of the air; "BE "SUCH THE FATE OF THE VEN-"DERS OF THEIR CHILDREN's LI-"BERTIES AND HAPPINESS," ought to be uttered from the lips of every honest man; but, still, *they* have some excuse; they have the excuse of the hungry robber and assassin, whose crimes they equal and

whose fate they deserve. But for you, Electors of Westminster, what excuse shall be made for *you*, if you fail in the performance of your duty; if you violate so sacred a trust? If you, who have all the political advantages that time and place can give; who well understand what is right, and who have no temptation to do what is wrong; who can plead neither ignorance nor want; who are, in short, as free as you could possibly be made by any scheme of liberty that human art is capable of devising; what shall be said for you, if, setting at nought all considerations of country and of individual honour, you become the passive instruments, the trodden down things, of some half dozen of opulent men, whose only merit, in the eyes of the world, would be, that they would hold you in a degree of contempt surpassing that which they entertain for the beasts that perish?

To hear some persons talk of an election for Westminster, a stranger to the state of things would believe, that the electors were the bondsmen, or, at best, the mere menial servants of a few great families. The question, upon hearing such persons talk, seems to be, not what man the electors may wish to choose, but what man is preferred by a few of the noblemen, though, by-the-by, it is well known, that the law positively forbids such noblemen to interfere in elections. Notwithstanding this law, we hear the boroughs called after the names of the peers who are the *owners* of them; we hear that such a peer has so many members in the House of Commons, and such a peer so many more; and this we, at last, have become to hear and to talk about with perfect unconcern; but, this is no excuse for *you*. Neither peers nor any body else can render you dependant, if you are disposed to be free. You are nearly *twenty thousand* in number. Your trades and occupations are, generally speaking, full as necessary to your employers as their employment is necessary to you. If you are turned out of one house, there is always another ready to receive you; if you lose one customer, you gain another; you need court the smiles, you need fear the frowns, of no man, and no set of men, living. Some few unfortunate dependants there may be amongst you; but, the number is so small as to be unworthy of notice, when compared to the whole. Yet, under these circumstances it is that we hear of the *interest* of such or such a nobleman, and, indeed, of such or such a nobleman's *Butler* or *House-keeper*; and, after hearing what we do hear in this way at every Westminster election, it seems surprising, that the Butler does not himself become your representative in parliament. The king has his powers; the peers have theirs, and ample powers they have, every one of them being his *own representative* in parliament. These powers it is our duty to maintain; but, it is also our duty to maintain our own powers, and, if we basely surrender them at the command of the Butlers and Footmen of peers, we deserve every species of insolence that the minds of Butlers and Footmen are capable of conceiving. To make use of any interested motive for the purpose of inducing an elector to give, or to withhold, his vote, is a crime in the eye of the law, which has provided injunctions and oaths, which has prepared shame and punishment for every such crime; but, to attempt to induce an elector to vote contrary to his conscience, is also a personal offence, that every honest man will resent with as much indignation as he would an accusation of perjury. How scandalous, then, is it that tradesmen should patiently listen to the commands of their customers, nay, that they should obey those commands, in direct opposition to the dictates of their own minds, from the paltry consideration of gain, which, when compared to the weight of taxes, brought upon them from the want of real representatives, is as a farthing to a pound!

Men who have been *born* slaves, who, and whose fathers before them, have never had an idea of freedom, may be pitied, but they cannot reasonably be blamed, any more than the Pagans of Peru could be blamed for their want of Christian faith. Yet, it is not rare to hear Englishmen speaking contemptuously of those nations who quietly submit to the absolute will, and who lick the foot, of a ruler; but, if such nations be objects of just contempt, what shall be said of us, if, with all the noble examples of our ancestors before us, with all the laws which their valour obtained and their wisdom has secured, we give up, and that, too, from the basest of motives, all the *real* freedom, which we enjoy, or which we might enjoy? In the exercise of perfect freedom at elections, we are not only secured by the law; not only does the law say, that we shall be permitted freely to make our choice of persons to represent us; but, it commands us not to be biassed, and it provides heavy penalties for all those who attempt to bias us. In short, men must arrive at a state of sheer baseness of mind, before they can suffer themselves to be induced to vote for persons, of whom, in their consciences, they do not approve; and this must be more especially the case in a city

like Westminster, where it is morally impossible that any motive of real *interest* should exist sufficiently powerful to bias a rational man.

The possessor of the elective franchise is the holder of a trust; he acts not only for himself, but for his country in general, and more especially for his family and his children. To violate his trust, or to neglect the performance of what it imposes upon him, is, therefore, not merely an act of baseness, not merely a degradation of himself, but a crime against others; and, a man so acting, ought to be regarded by his neighbours as a public offender; as an injurer of every other man; as a person to be shunned and abhorred; as a person very little, if at all, less detestable than one who betrays his country into the hands of an enemy. It is no justification of such a man, to say that those who bias him are his superiors, or that the temptation is great. In the case of Westminster there is no temptation at all; and, besides, what crime is there which might not, upon such a principle, be justified? And, as to the "*superiors*" who bias, they may be superior in riches; but, in every other respect, are they not the basest of mankind, except only those who are biassed by them? Are they not violators of the law? Are they not hypocrites of the most odious description? Are they not, with the sound of loyalty and patriotism on their lips, the worst of enemies to their King and their country? I shall be told, that, in some instances, even the Clergy have used the means of corruption at elections. I hope such instances are rare; and it cannot but shock any one to know that they at all exist; but, if they existed in ever so great a number, no countenance would thereby be afforded to the corrupted; for, of all detestable characters, the most detestable assuredly is, what is called "an *electioneering parson*." From the chalice of such a priest one would flee as from a goblet of poison; and if ten such instances could exist, without producing an ecclesiastical censure and punishment, the Church ought to be destroyed, root and branch, for ever.

Having now endeavoured to describe to you the nature of the privilege, which you will speedily be called upon to exercise, I shall, in my next, proceed upon those inquiries, the result of which will, I trust, convince you, that it is entirely owing to the shameful abuse of that privilege, that we now have to lament being so situated as to have very little to hope either from peace, or from a continuation of the war In the meantime I am, Gentlemen, yours &c. &c.

W. COBBETT.

Botley, 6th August, 1806.

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

PEACE.——Of the state of the negociation between England and France, it is next impossible, that any one but the ministers themselves should know any thing. It is, perhaps, true, that negociations, in some shape or other, have been going on ever since March last; but, confident as some persons seem to be of a speedy termination of the war, it does not appear to me as being in the smallest degree probable. Lest, however, I should be deceived, in this respect, it may not be amiss to offer a remark or two upon the *terms* of which the writers, who are opposed to the ministry, are representing as proper to be demanded and insisted on, and the chief of which are, that France should enter into a commercial treaty opening all ports to us, and that she should give us *security*, that she will not make a sudden attack upon us after the conclusion of the peace, or, in other words, *that the Boulogne Flotilla should be destroyed.* If we would agree to burn the British fleet, it is probable, that Buonaparté would agree to burn his boats; but, I venture to say, that he will not burn a single boat upon any other condition. To hear these writers, one would imagine, that we were negociating at the end of another Queen Anne's War. But, the fact is, they expect no such terms. Shallow and uninformed as they may be, they well know, that, after the proposing of such terms, Lord Lauderdale would not remain at Paris long enough to pack up his papers. They know this, and they are mean enough to hold a high-sounding language, in order to provide themselves beforehand with a sort of consistent ground for censuring such a peace as they know must be made, if any peace at all be made, under our present circumstances. In order, however, to give a colour of reason for these feigned expectations as to terms, these writers, and particularly my foolish friend of the MORNING POST, deal largely in flattering descriptions of the "*advantageous position*" in which this country is now placed; and, as if he was resolved to set ridicule and contempt at open defiance, he dwells with peculiar delight upon *the flourishing state of our finances!* The reader will need no detail to convince him of the folly of such a writer; but it is out of my power to refrain from laying before him the following statement upon the subject, taken from that print of the 5th instant.——"But, it is said that

" the finances of the country are unequal to " the prosecution of the contest. So Buonaparté said long since, and such has been " the uniform cant of certain persons within this country, even from an early period of last war. But how have the representations of the enemy, and the apprehensions of our internal croakers, been " justified by events, or affected by the unerring test of experience? The financial " operations of the present war are at once a complete refutation of all such injurious " misrepresentations, and a *satisfactory* " *proof of the very flourishing state of our* " *national means and resources.* When we " advert to the astonishing circumstance of " thirty-two millions sterling being raised " within the year, *independant of loans*, and " *exclussve of the interest of the national* " *debt, the civil list, &c.* we think it impossible that any person *in his senses* could " give way to any fears for the extent and " stability of our finances. The amount of " the sinking fund is nine millions this " year; the surplus of the consolidated " fund is taken at three millions; and the " estimated produce of the war taxes twenty millions; *in all thirty-two millions.* " If the war were to continue six years " longer, and the amount of the loan of " each year to be exactly equal to the loan " of the present year, the accumulation of " the sinking fund within that period would " *cover the interest of the sums borrowed,* " and leave a sinking fund nearly equal to " its present amount for the ultimate reduction of the national debt. So that *if* " the interest of each successive loan were, " pending the war, to be defrayed out of the " war taxes, and on the conclusion of peace " to be permanently provided for out of the " sinking fund, which at the end of *six* " *years* will be at least thirteen millions, the " war may be carried on for that period " *without any fresh taxes*, the whole of the " war taxes would then be taken off, and " the sinking fund would be seven millions " sterling."——This conclusion puts me in mind of the promises made, in 1799, by the schemer, Pitt, who then assured the wise House of Commons of that day, that " the " war might be carried on for any length of " time without imposing any new tax," who, from that day forward imposed new taxes in abundance every year. But, what is this " satisfactory *proof*" (I like prodigiously the *proofs* of the Morning Post) " of the very flourishing state of our national means and resources?" Why, he asserts, that, independent of loans, and exclusive of the interest of the National Debt, the Civil List, &c. 32 millions are raised. What we are to understand by the *et cetera*, I know not, but, even without that, here is, in the enumeration, a strange confusion of ideas; for who would not imagine, that the interest of the *national debt, civil list, &c.* were so many sources of national *income*, instead of *expenditure.* What he *would* say, however, is, probably, this: that, over and above what is wanted to defray the expenses of the civil-list, national debt, &c. 32 millions are annually raised in this country, to which position I should have nothing to object, except that it is *false.* The whole of the money raised in taxes last year, amounted to 40 millions; the interest upon the national debt alone required 28 millions, and, of course, to say nothing about the civil-list, *et cetera*, there remained but 18, instead of 32 millions.——So much for that part of the statement, which he produces " as *proof* of " the flourishing state of our national re" sources."——But, then, we have another view of the matter, lest, after having witnessed the embarrassments of the Budge, we should have some unfavourable doubts hanging about our minds.——" The *amount* " of the *Sinking Fund* is 9 millions this " year; the Surplus of the Consolidated " Fund is taken at 3 millions; and the esti" mated produce of the war-taxes at 20 " millions; in all, 32 millions."——This man would certainly have accompanied the renowned ideot, who, it is said, went, in all simplicity of heart, to see the dance of the bottle-conjurer! He thinks, in good earnest, that the nation *receives* 9 millions a year from the Sinking Fund. " And so it does!" will he exclaim with foaming vehemence; but, who *pays* it to the nation? That question staggers him for a moment: he recovers, and answers: " Why the Bank, to be " sure." And who pays it to the Bank? " Why the Exchequer." And where does the Exchequer get it? " What a fool you " you are," says he, " why every one " knows, that the Exchequer collects it in " from the Excise and the Customs and the " Taxes." That is to say, then, *from the nation*; and, so the bottle conjuror " now " unhappily no more," as my Lord Grenville and Old Rose frequently sigh out, has persuaded you, that the paying of 9 millions with one hand and the receiving of 9 millions with the other hand is the way to gain 9 millions of money for the purpose of carrying on the war!——To make any thing like a serious remark upon the remaining part of the statement would be to pay too much respect to the addled brain in which it was conceived. Enough has been said to expose

the ignorance (for it really is ignorance here) of this stickler for *high terms* of peace, upon the ground of our pecuniary ability to carry on the war.——The fact is, that, if the war be carried on, *new taxes must be imposed*; or, in other words, an addition must be made to the Income Tax; or, still more properly speaking, *a greater deduction must be made from the dividends*. People may cry out against this as long as they please; but, let them, then, not expect high terms of peace; let them not vapour about *security*; let them submit to the deduction, to a greater and a greater and a greater deduction at the Bank, or let them be silent about the terms of a disgraceful peace; for, one or the other they *must* submit to. Many of the measures of the ministers I greatly dislike, particularly those which have had a tendency to screen public robbers; but, I shall not for this, or for any other cause, join in the cry of those, who, this minute censure them for "a breach of faith" (a breach committed by Pitt), and the next, censure them for intending, as it is *assumed*, to make a humiliating peace; who, one minute reproach them with having hastened to put an end to the war, and the next, censure them for having adopted the *only* means, by which it is *possible*, under the present system of expenditure, that the war can be supported for any length of time.——I would, *first*, have cut off the *pensions* and *sinecures*, not granted for *real* services or losses, in behalf of the public; and I would have winnowed to the very last grain, every department of expenditure; but, the sticklers for high terms and for abstaining from touching the dividends, are also sticklers for pensions, sinecures, and all sorts of emoluments! They are for national honour and security, as the means of annoying the ministers; but, not one particle of plunder will they give up, though the fate of the nation depend upon the loosening of their grasp.

Upon the communications which are contained in the remaining pages of this sheet, some remarks will be offered in my next.

HON. COCHRANE JOHNSTONE.

To the Public.——Shortly after the present administration came into place, the Earl of Moira informed me that he had had an interview with the Duke of York, the Commander in Chief, upon the subject of my Case, to represent to His Royal Highness the extreme hardship of my situation, the justice and expediency of his immediately attending to the subject, and of moving his Majesty to confer upon me the rank of major general. Lord Moira informed me that at this meeting, THE DUKE OF YORK ASSURED HIM, OF HIS READINESS TO ATTEND TO THE SUBJECT, AND THAT HE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RECOMMEND TO HIS MAJESTY TO CONFER UPON ME THE RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL.——Lord Moira has informed me that several other meetings on this subject took place, both with the Duke of York and Colonel Gordon the Secretary of the Commander-in-Chief. At one of these meetings it was arranged that Mr. Bond the present Judge Advocate General should wait upon his Majesty and report, that upon inspecting the papers of his office after succeeding Sir Charles Morgan, (the former Judge Advocate General) he had perused the proceedings of my court martial, that he was sorry to state that Sir Charles Morgan had not made a correct report to his Majesty of the state of the proceedings, that it had consequently excited a considerable degree of uneasiness throughout the army, which could only be allayed by conferring upon me the rank of major general. I was also informed, that a letter to the same effect signed by the Commander-in-Chief was to be presented at the same time by Mr. Bond to the King.——After this statement I never doubted but that my name would appear in the Gazette in a few days afterwards as Major General, and such also was Lord Moira's opinion, who congratulated me upon the state in which matters were.—Mr. Mc. Arthur, late Judge Advocate General to the Navy, the day after I had seen Lord Moira, informed me (agreeably to his letter, which I have now in my possession,) that he had, the day before, been in company at dinner with Lord Hutchinson, Colonel Gordon (the Commander-in-Chief's Secretary) and others; that a conversation had taken place with regard to my case; and that Colonel Gordon stated *that it was then before his Majesty*, and he did not doubt but that my name would appear in the Gazette in a few days as Major General.—Having waited a considerable period in the hopes, that day after day would have produced the wished-for decision in my case, and wearied with the state of suspense in which I was kept, I at last addressed the following letter to Colonel Gordon, Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief.——"*Harley Street, May 2, 1806.*

——"Sir,—Having been informed some "time ago from unquestionable authority, "that it was the intention of his Royal "Highness the Commander-in-Chief, to "advise his Majesty to cancel his accept- "ance of the resignation of the commission "of colonel, which I tendered last year,

" and to confer upon me the rank of major " general in the army, I had, therefore, " given up my intention of pursuing ano- " ther line of life, not doubting but that the " gracious recommendation of the Com- " mander-in-Chief, would have due weight " with the King.——As a considerable time " has elapsed since I received this informa- " tion, and not having heard of any thing " having been decided on the subject, I " trust that you will pardon the liberty I " take in requesting that you will be pleased " to move His Royal Highness to favour " me with the determination of his Majesty " on the subject; for, if the door shall be " finally shut against my anxious wish to " join those of my own family who are " daily gaining laurels in his Majesty's ser- " vice, and who have evinced the loyalty " and attachment of the name of Cochrane " to the King's person and government, I " must then make the strongest immediate " exertions for retrieving my injured inte- " rests, and endeavouring to save the re- " mains of a fortune, which the vindictive " attacks of injustice and malice had so " cruelly conspired to ruin.——I have the " honour to be, with respect, Sir, your " most obedient and most humble servant. " *(Signed)* A. COCHRANE JOHNSTONE."

——To the above letter I received the following answer.——" *Horse Guards, May* " 3, 1806.——SIR,—I have to acknow- " ledge your letter of yesterday, acquaint- " ing me that you had been informed of " the intention of his Royal Highness the " Commander-in-Chief, to advise his Ma- " jesty to cancel his acceptance of the re- " signation of the commission of colonel " which you tendered last year, and to con- " fer upon you the rank of major general in " the army; and, *having submitted the* " *same to the Commander-in-Chief, I am* " *commanded to communicate to you, that* " His Royal Highness HAS NOT EN- " TERTAINED ANY INTENTION TO THAT " EFFECT, NOR CAN HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS " RECOMMEND SUCH A MEASURE TO HIS " MAJESTY.——I have the honour to be, " Sir, your most obedient humble servant, " *(Signed)* J. W. GORDON."——Having now submitted to the public what is consistent with my knowledge, of the attempt made by my noble and respected friend the Earl of Moira to procure me justice, it only remains for me to express my sense of obligation to his lordship, and my perfect conviction, which will, I am confident, be that of the public, that implicit faith will be given to the statement afforded to me by his lordship.——A. COCHRANE JOHNSTONE.—*London, July* 10, 1806.

BARRACK-ABUSES.

The following Affidavits were, on the 29th of June, 1806, transmitted to the Secretary at War by MR. ATKINS, late Barrack-Master of Sandown Bay Division in the Isle of Wight. On the 18th of July, they were printed by order of the House; and, from the printed copy, they are now laid before the Public.

Copy of an Affidavit made by Harriet Atkins; dated 27th June, 1806.

I HARRIET ATKINS, MAKE OATH AS FOLLOWS:——In the month of Aug. 1805, I went to the house of my brother Becher Westropp Atkins, then Barrack-Master of Sandown, in the Isle of Wight, and residing at Langbridge House near New Church; that shortly after, and to the best of my recollection, early in Sept., a person of the name of Medley, a Contractor for Coals, came to my brother's house in the morning on business; that immediately on his going away, my brother came into the parlour where I was sitting with his family, and said, " I have learned a strange circum- " stance from Medley; he tells me there is " a report circulated in Newport that Far- " mer Ward says I demanded 15 guineas of " him for keeping his barn; now I think it " best to go to Ward, and, Harriet, you " must come with me to be a witness of " the conversation." Accordingly, on the very evening of that day, and to the best of my recollection between the hours of 7 and 8 o'clock, we went to Ward's house, who was very civil, and pressed us to take refreshments; my brother immediately addressed him in these words: " Ward, I am " come on very particular business; Mr. " Medley has informed me you have report- " ed in Newport, that I demanded from " you 15 guineas for continuing to rent " your barn."—" It is a very great false- " hood, Sir," said Ward, " and I shall give " you every satisfaction you please to desire " as to its falsehood; and, as I am going to " Newport on Saturday next to sell a load " of corn, I shall call on Mr. Medley and " ask him about it; and, Sir, as you have " mentioned the subject, I shall tell you, " that one of your department came out " here a little time ago, and said to me, " 'Ward, has not your Barrack-Master " done you out of 15 guineas for keeping " on your barn?' I answered him, that so " far from giving you money, I offered you " some (and to the best of my recollection, " he said he had offered my brother a two " pound note) but you refused."—" Now, (said my brother) mark, Harriet, what Ward is telling you. Have I not told you

the same, that I refused money from him and Farmer Kent?"—"Yes, Sir (said Ward) you are right, we went both together to receive the rent of you. The old farmer said to me, "come Ward, prepare a note, let us make a present to the Barrack-master," and as perfectly as I can recollect, he said it was a two pound note, he (Ward) had prepared to give him. "But Ward," said my brother, interrupting him, "which of my department was it who came out and asked this question of you; was it Page?"—"Why, Sir," said he, "if you insist on it I shall tell you, but I don't much like to make enmity between you."—"Do not tell," said I, eagerly interrupting them, "for I know my brother to be naturally warm." "Then, Sir," said Ward, "at any time hereafter, should you insist on it, I shall tell you." The conversation here ended on this subject, and Ward passed to that of his telling us, that a person employed by Miss Simpson, the supposed heiress to Sir Richard Worseley, who was then lately deceased, had come to him to tell him not to pay his rent to any one till it was decided by law who was to inherit Sir Richard's estates.——On Thursday the 27th of Feb. 1806, Capt. Bygrave, attended by Capt. Cumberland, successor to my brother, called on my brother to accompany them to Sandown Barracks, in order to deliver up the stores. My brother being then in durance in his own house, begged me to receive Capt. Bygrave at the outward gate, and to express to him, that he could not possibly attend to make the delivery on any other day than Sunday, as his liberty was now to him and his family of most material consideration. I then went out to Capt. Bygrave, who said, "can I not see Atkins?" to which I replied, "I know he does not wish to see any one at present, but if it is your wish to speak to him, I shall let him know it." I did so, and my brother consented to see him. As Capt. Bygrave entered the parlour where he was, he exclaimed, "By G— Atkins, it is all your own fault, you know that Davis and I wanted to suppress those charges and you ordered them to be sent up."—"I know you did," said my brother, "but what would be the consequence?" "Certainly," said I, turning round to Capt. Bygrave, "I should consider it a tacit confession of his guilt, did he consent to suppress them; but, Capt. Bygrave, has he not a right to a court-martial?"—"Not on this occasion," he replied, "when the charges were on the affidavit of a person not immediately in the Barrack Department." Capt. Bygrave then told my brother, it was better to nominate a person to deliver up the stores. My brother then mentioned an officer, when Capt. Bygrave observed, it would be better to appoint one who was neither a military man, nor a lawyer. "I know not then whom I shall get," said my brother; when Capt. Bygrave said "Wilkins's clerk is a smart little fellow, write to him, and I shall take the note for you;" my brother returned to write the note, and Capt. Bygrave asked me, what does Atkins mean to do? "He has never been brought up to business," said I, "and his dismissal precludes his return to any part of the service, you say, (for Capt. Bygrave had observed so to me in his discourse) or otherwise he might have returned into the line; he must instantly institute a civil suit, and bring it before a court of justice, or he and his family must perish." "Oh God! said Capt. Bygrave, it would be madness of him to do so, he will ruin himself like that foolish fellow Pritchard; Miss Atkins, every thing depends on the first affidavit; he will only get involved by it, and imprisoned for life." "I should be much better pleased," said I, "that that should be the case, than that the matter should not be brought before the public, and his character cleared." Having accompanied my brother to the lodging of Major Davis on Monday the 20th Jan. 1806, official business being closed, Major Davis said he wished to speak to me in the adjoining room. He prefaced what he had to say by a great appearance of solemnity, and said, he was sorry to tell me that he had got charges against my brother. I asked him, what charges? "Charges of so black a dye, that, upon my honour it has deprived me of my rest these two nights; I have taken up the paper at different times to peruse, but my feelings really would not permit me to go through it." I smiled, and said, "it must indeed be terrific; can't you let me know the nature of the charge, Major Davis?" "Not at present;" and the feeling Major Davis appeared to shudder at the thought of it, if I could see you again, I could acquaint you with it. I did not answer him, but returned into the room where my brother and Capt. Bygrave were, saying, "Becher, there are charges against you," when the conversation already related in my brother's affidavit took place.—I declare that I do swear to the truth of the different conversations in which I bore a part, and to which I was witness, as stated by my brother in his affidavit. *(Signed)* HARRIET ATKINS.

Sworn before me this 27th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1806. *(Signed)* JOHN COLLICK.

Copy of the Affidavits of the Mother and Sister of Mr. Atkins, late Barrack-Master at Sandown; dated 27th June, 1806.

I MARY ATKINS, MAKE OATH AS FOLLOWS:——That in 1804, Farmer Kent, senior, came to my brother's house at New Church, for the purpose of receiving his half year's rent, for his barn at Brading: that he offered my brother bank notes, the amount of which I cannot swear to: that my brother declined the acceptance of them, and returned the notes to the farmer, when the farmer put them into the hands of one of the children of my brother, who took them out of the child's hands, and insisted on Farmer Kent's taking them. (*Signed*) MARY ATKINS.

Sworn before me this 27th day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1806.—(*Signed*) JOHN COLLICK.

I Mary Atkins, mother of Becher Westropp Atkins, declare, that I was present during the whole transaction to which my daughter Mary Atkins swears; and that I equally attest the truth of the circumstanc s attending it.—(*Signed*) MARY ATKINS.

Sworn before me this 27th day of June, 1806.—(*Signed*) JOHN COLLICK.

Copy of an Affidavit of Becher Westropp Atkins, late Barrack-Master of Sandown, Isle of Wight; dated 27th June, 1806.

I BECHER WESTROPP ATKINS, formerly Lieutenant in his Majesty's 27th regiment of infantry, serving in the West Indies in the year 1797, 1798, &c. under the late ever-to-be-lamented Sir Ralph Abercrombie, from whom I obtained an ensigncy in that regiment, and from which I was allowed to sell out by his Royal Highness Field Marshal the Duke of York, on a representation that my sight had suffered materially in the West Indies; and lately, Barrack-Master of Sandown Bay Division, in the Isle of Wight, to the best of my recollection and belief, make oath to the following statements and conversations that took place between me and the several persons therein mentioned, and as follow: that in March, 1804, Major Davis came by invitation to dine and spend the day with me, at my house, at Chilton: that shortly after dinner, he observed, that I had enemies in my department in the Island, who had represented to him, on his arrival there, that I was a man much involved, and who made too free with my bottle, and advised me to beware of them. My sister, Mary Atkins, who was with me, asked him if it was Mr. Page, Deputy Barrack-Master, who had done so. He replied, he could not tell the name, she might guess; but added, "Atkins, you are now appointed to one of the best situations in the Island; you say you are taking a new house; you can furnish it without expence to yourself, and cover it in the accounts of the Barracks. I see those things, but I take no notice of them. I give this to you as friendly advice, and when I return to the Island I shall be very angry if I do not find it furnished in that manner. When you are settled, I shall bring Mrs. Davis over to see you." Turning to my sister, he said, to enforce it, do you make him do it; he further added, he could break Capt. Bygrave. Having seen that he was apparently on good terms at this time with Capt. Bygrave, I thought it the part of a man of honour to apprize Capt. Bygrave of this assertion. From that hour I never gave Major Davis an invitation to my house, considering him as a dangerous man. When I removed to Langbridge, I avoided Major Davis, and, on his return to the Island, I never called on him but expressly on official business. Hence I incurred his enmity. * ——Some of my papers being at the present moment mislaid, in consequence of my removal, I cannot avail myself of some that I consider as necessary to make my exculpation from particular charges more clear, and am therefore obliged, for a few days, to refer to the copies of them now in the Barrack Office, namely, the certificates of Col. Chichester, and Capt. Anwyl, commanding in the absence of Col. Vaughan, the Merioneth militia, contradicting the charge of Major Davis of inattention to the troops in consequence of my habits of drinking.—— On the 6th of Jan. 1806, I received a letter from Major Davis, requesting to see me instantly on business of a pressing and important nature; I accordingly waited on him that evening, and found him at the house of Mr. Wilkins, when, without entering on the subject for which he had given me the trouble of walking ten miles, he dismissed me by merely saying, that he wished to see me on the following morning, the 7th Jan. I waited on him accordingly on the morning of the 7th Jan. at his lodgings, when the following conversation took place: he asked me, whether I had not been in London? To which I answered evasively. "Is not this your letter?" said he, presenting me my letter of the 29th Dec, inclosing the plan and

* Having proceeded in my statement so far as the word enmity, I was in momentary expectation of being able to find the papers above-mentioned, and therefore left a blank here for their insertion, and have now, to avoid delay, only referred to them as above.

proposals of Mr. Day, and addressed to the Right hon. Mr. Dundas, the then Secretary at War. "It is, Sir." "What right had you to go to London without permission?" "Sir, the business I went on was of a public nature, and I did not consider it necessary." He then said he was convinced Mr. Day could not mean to fulfil his agreement. I assured him I was perfectly satisfied he would, and should bring Mr. Day to him for that purpose. "By no means, Sir," said he, "I desire you will not; I shall either go to him myself, or send." Observing the visible chagrin of Major Davis, I determined to call on Mr. Day that evening, and to accompany him to Major Davis, which I did the next day, the 8th. Jan., when I immediately presented Major Davis with a written paper, of which the following is a copy, and the original of which is now in my possession; observing to him, "This, Sir, is Mr. Day's agreement with me." "It is, Sir," said Mr. Day; on which Major Davis turned sharply to me, and said, "What right had you to make an agreement?"——"I James Day agree to build a Barrack to the construction of 384 men, at £220 per annum, provided the premises are taken for one year and a half certain. ——James Day."——Major Davis then addressing Mr. Day, said, "What profession are you of?" An innkeeper, Sir." "Pray, how could you presume to let to government for £220 per annum, what government pays £1,100 for, and to put up births and chimneys?" "No, Sir; I only mean to give the building in the same manner as the barns have been given." "Is this your plan," said he, (holding out the plan which had been drawn by Mr. Atkey, architect) "you must have been drunk, or mad, when you made it." "Perhaps I may be mad, Sir," said Mr. Day, "but I was never drunk but once in my life." Major Davis then said, that this wall must be made to a certain thickness and length, which he mentioned, and to which Mr. Day said he agreed, for the same rent, namely, £220 per annum. "Pray, whose land are you letting," said Capt. Bygrave, who, with his deputy, Mr. Page, Barrack-Master, had about this time, come into the room. "My own free land," said Mr. Day; "thank God, I have more too, and am worth from two to three thousand pounds." The clerk of the works, Mr. Anston, who had also come into the room, was then sent out with Mr. Day, to purchase a twenty shilling stamp, in order that Mr. Day might sign the agreement, and I returned to my duty. I heard no more of the agreement till the following week, when I went over to Ryde, and met the architect, Mr. Atkey, who told me of the following conversation which Major Davis had with Mr. Day, which was afterwards confirmed to me by Mr. Day himself, at his (Mr. Day's) house at Brading, in the presence of my sister Harriet Atkins.—Major Davis said to Mr. Day, "Pray, what do you give Mr. Atkins for making this agreement; is he not joined with you in this business?" "No, Sir," replied Mr. Day, "on my oath I believe he did it for the good of government." "Do you know that the best of the barns in the Island are to be given up from this agreement of yours?" "Sir, that is nothing to me; I must serve myself." "Are you aware of the many enemies it will raise over your head?" "I must do the best for myself, Sir." "But, Sir, I do not wish your Barrack to be of this construction; it would be much better if it contained fewer men. Pray, are you not concerned in the canteen of Sandown?" "Yes, Sir, my son-in-law keeps it." "You have not paid the money, and I have a number of letters from the Barrack-Master-General on that subject." "Well, Sir, I will pay you now for it;" and he took a parcel of notes out of his pocket for that purpose. "What, then, have you not paid Mr. Atkins?" "No, Sir, Mr. Atkins has not yet demanded it of me, but I shall pay you, if you have a right to receive it." "No, no, pay it to Mr. Atkins." Mr. Day, in repeating this conversation to me, observed, that Major Davis and Mr. Ansten, Clerk of the Works, had frightened the architect, Mr. Atkey, so much, that he said he was sorry he had any thing to do with the business. From what causes Mr. Day declined from his agreement, he best can say. I declare, that in about a fortnight after this, Mr. Day, in the presence of Mr. Kemp, of Brading, begged me to notify to the Barrack-Master-General, that he would build chimneys to his Barrack, if they would agree to give him £250 a year for the time specified; but no communication having been made to me through the office, I waited the report of Major Davis, and did not transmit this last proposal. And I further declare, that my verbal agreement with Mr. Day was for a regular brick Barrack of four or five detached buildings, with intervals between, according to the present mode of building Barracks; that Mr. Day and Mr. Kemp assured me, the ground was a gravelly soil, with a never-ceasing spring of pure water running near it, and close to the high road, and Mr. Day himself, as he informed me, the overseer of the road. I declare, that all

the following articles were provided and fitted up, in the several barns at the expense of the Barrack Department, consequently government might order them to be removed at any time, and no expense could be incurred but that attending their removal and reputting up:—

Chimneys Floors Births Arm Racks Pin Rails Grates Windows Cooking Kitchens Boilers Mess Rooms Cleaning Sheds Privies Guard House Pump and Well	None to any of the barns in the Island.

To the best of recollection no guard-house to more than one or two barns, and these, I understand, built at the expense of government. All the water was from the wells or pumps in the farm-yards. There was neither hospital, officers barracks, store-houses, coal-yards or inclosures to any barns in my division; parade ground, none, to any of the barns.—On Monday the 20th of Jan. 1806, I was ordered on official business to Major Davis's lodgings, to which place my sister Harriet Atkins accompanied me, and where I found Captain Bygrave and Mr. Page, with Major Davis, on entering whose apartment I was immediately arrested for debt, upon which I turned round, and exclaimed, "This is a settled business." Major Davis presently desired my sister to step into the adjoining room, as he wished to speak with her. On her return in again, she said, adressing me, "Major Davis has got charges against you." —"Against me!" said I. "What are they," turning to Major Davis; "I cannot tell you, Mr. Atkins," said he. "Who has given them in," I added? "Some of those farmers," replied Captain Bygrave, "we all know what fellows they are, and that they hate every one in our department." —"I am fearless of the charges," said I, "and shall call for a court-martial whenever they are forwarded to office." This conversation over, I was taken to a spunging-house, accompanied by my sister, and Mr. Anston, clerk of the works, at the desire of Major Davis. "There are indeed charges given in against you," said Mr. Anston, as we entered the street. "Do you know what they are," said I. "Farmer Ward swears you took money from him," said he. I laughed, and turning to my sister, she exclaimed, "Good God! how fortunate it was that I was witness to Ward's assertion in September," and immediately related to him the substance of her inclosed affidavit, so far as relates to Ward's conversation; when he said, it was an infamous business, and deserved to be punished. I then said I should let it go forward to office, and then call for a court-martial, but I assure you it shall be on more than one person, Anston. Mr. Anston then said, I assure you Sir, the general wish is peace. My sister said, it is sincerely mine; and he rejoined, "I assure you, Miss Atkins, it is the wish of all." A gentleman who had entered the spunging-house, then advised me to make application for a copy of Ward's oath, that I might proceed against him in a court of law.—Having been liberated the next day, I waited on Major Davis, asked him for a copy of Ward's affidavit, and received for answer, that if I would send to him in the course of the week he would let me have it. I then said, "Pray Major Davis, have I your permission to speak freely to you?"—"Certainly," said he. "Pray," said I, "did you ever get pictures from Captain Dickson for raising his rent?" He immediately turned pale, remained silent a short time, and then hesitatingly answered, "Why Atkins, if I have a fault, it is that of being unfortunately fond of pictures. It is the only extravagance I am guilty of: I know the scoundrel who told you so;" (the person who told me he had taken pictures from Captain Dickson, was Mr. Wilkins, Ironmonger and Banker of Newport.) "It is not many days since you dined at his house," said I. He then asked me if I had breakfasted, to which I replied I had, and immediately wished him good morning; nor have I ever seen him since, or at any time been required by him, by letter or otherwise, to enter into any explanation of my conduct with respect to Ward's affidavit, or any charge whatever. In a day or two after this, I begged Captain Carey, who lodged in the same house with Major Davis, and who was going into Newport from my house, to call on him for a copy of the affidavit, which he did, when Major Davis said he wished to see Miss Atkins on the following Friday; that he should stay at home for her till eleven o'clock, and give her the copy required. On Captain Carey's delivering this message, my sister said, "I think it best not to go, he is an artful man, and may hereafter say that I went to him for the purpose of entreating him to keep back the charges;" and she advised me to

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To the best of recollection no guard-house to more than one or two barns, and these, I understand, built at the expense of government. All the water was from the wells or pumps in the farm-yards. There was neither hospital, officers barracks, store-houses, coal-yards or inclosures to any barns in my division; parade ground, none, to any of the barns.—On Monday the 20th of Jan. 1806, I was ordered on official business to Major Davis's lodgings, to which place my sister Harriet Atkins accompanied me, and where I found Captain Bygrave and Mr. Page, with Major Davis, on entering whose apartment I was immediately arrested for debt, upon which I turned round, and exclaimed, "This is a settled business." Major Davis presently desired my sister to step into the adjoining room, as he wished to speak with her. On her return in again, she said, adressing me, "Major Davis has got charges against you." —"Against me!" said I. "What are they," turning to Major Davis; "I cannot tell you, Mr. Atkins," said he. "Who has given them in," I added? "Some of those farmers," replied Captain Bygrave, "we all know what fellows they are, and that they hate every one in our department." —"I am fearless of the charges," said I, "and shall call for a court-martial whenever they are forwarded to office." This conversation over, I was taken to a spunging-house, accompanied by my sister, and Mr. Anston, clerk of the works, at the desire of Major Davis. "There are indeed charges given in against you," said Mr. Anston, as we entered the street. "Do you know what they are," said I. "Farmer Ward swears you took money from him," said he. I laughed, and turning to my sister, she exclaimed, "Good God! how fortunate it was that I was witness to Ward's assertion in September," and immediately related to him the substance of her inclosed affidavit, so far as relates to Ward's conversation; when he said, it was an infamous business, and deserved to be punished. I then said I should let it go forward to office, and then call for a court-martial, but I assure you it shall be on more than one person, Anston. Mr. Anston then said, I assure you Sir, the general wish is peace. My sister said, it is sincerely mine; and he rejoined, "I assure you, Miss Atkins, it is the wish of all." A gentleman who had entered the spunging-house, then advised me to make application for a copy of Ward's oath, that I might proceed against him in a court of law.—Having been liberated the next day, I waited on Major Davis, asked him for a copy of Ward's affidavit, and received for answer, that if I would send to him in the course of the week he would let me have it. I then said, "Pray Major Davis, have I your permission to speak freely to you?"—"Certainly," said he. "Pray," said I, "did you ever get pictures from Captain Dickson for raising his rent?" He immediately turned pale, remained silent a short time, and then hesitatingly answered, "Why Atkins, if I have a fault, it is that of being unfortunately fond of pictures. It is the only extravagance I am guilty of: I know the scoundrel who told you so;" (the person who told me he had taken pictures from Captain Dickson, was Mr. Wilkins, Ironmonger and Banker of Newport.) "It is not many days since you dined at his house," said I. He then asked me if I had breakfasted, to which I replied I had, and immediately wished him good morning: nor have I ever seen him since, or at any time been required by him, by letter or otherwise, to enter into any explanation of my conduct with respect to Ward's affidavit, or any charge whatever. In a day or two after this, I begged Captain Carey, who lodged in the same house with Major Davis, and who was going into Newport from my house, to call on him for a copy of the affidavit, which he did, when Major Davis said he wished to see Miss Atkins on the following Friday; that he should stay at home for her till eleven o'clock, and give her the copy required. On Captain Carey's delivering this message, my sister said, "I think it best not to go, he is an artful man, and may hereafter say that I went to him for the purpose of entreating him to keep back the charges;" and she advised me to

wait for the affidavit till I should receive it through the Barrack Master General. I agreed, and saw it in the same point with my sister. On the following Sunday I went into Newport to wait on Colonel Ramsay of the 6th regiment, at the Bugle Inn, when I met Captain Bygrave ordering a chaise to be got ready. "Atkins," said he, "I was first going out to your house to speak with you," and countermanded the chaise; saying to the master of the Inn, "I hope you will not charge me any thing, as this is the gentleman I was going to see." He then asked me to accompany him to his office. I told him I should follow him, after I had seen Colonel Ramsay. On my entering his office, he took out a parcel from his pocket, and said, I have got those charges, and I want you to come to Davis with me, as he wishes to suppress them as I do. He added, that Davis was my friend; and I replied, "D—— such friends; was he my friend when he clandestinely made a false report of me at the former period? I will not go to him; and tell him, if he keeps back those charges, I will report him to the Barrack-Master General, as not having done his duty." I then begged Captain Bygrave to let me take a copy of Ward's affidavit, when he said he was in haste, but would have it written out for me; however, I did not obtain it. Previous to this, on Friday the 16th, Major Davis came to Sandown to make inspection of the Barracks, and I was afterwards informed by Farmer Kent, jun. that he took up his residence at Farmer Smith's, proprietor of four of the barns, for that and the following day, together with Mr. Page, Deputy Barrack-Master, to which place the different Farmers, proprietors of the barns, were summoned: that his father was asked by one of those two gentlemen, whether he had not something to say against me; when he answered, No indeed, he had nothing to say against the gentleman, I then asked the young Farmer, "Whether they had not lowered the rents to half?" "Pretty nearly, Sir," said he; "it is agreed that Mr. Smith should not fall so low as the rest." George Sperring also declared in the presence of my mother, my sister, and myself, that Major Davis and Mr. Page dined, and lay on the night of the 16th at Farmer Smith's, and that Barrack Serjeant Wooldridge, (against whom I had on Tuesday the 19th Nov, 1805, in the presence of the Serjeant and Mr. Page, given in a charge to Captain Bygrave, of robbery of coals, which he had sold out of the King's stores to Mr. John Medley, late contractor for coals, and for the deficiency of which the late Christopher Wollock, Barrack-Master of Sandown's executors were charged 100l. or upwards) sat up most part of the night, was very busy in assembling the Farmers; and that the next day, when he by my order called on him with a message from me, the Serjeant, who was very busy writing, told him he had business enough on his hands already. I have to declare here, from my own knowledge, that Major Davis and Mr. Page left the house of Farmer Smith for Newport, on the 17th, and that Farmers Smith and Ward are near neighbours, and in habits of great intimacy. It will be observed, that the affidavit of Farmer Ward appears to have been made on the day following; and from all the concurring circumstances, I am led to believe that the substance of Ward's affidavit was not solely his, but the joint fabrication of some of the persons named above; and I firmly believe that should the hand-writing be enquired into, it will be found to be that of one of the persons who assisted in dictating it.——I understand from Farmer Kent, that the rents were lowered on Saturday 18th January, or the following Sunday, and that the Farmers assembled at Newport for that purpose. Since I have been in town I have given in to the Barrack-office the charge against the Barrack Serjeant, which Captain Bygrave had neglected to give in. In refutation of Ward's affidavit, I declare, that in returning to my house from the barracks of Sandown, I almost always passed through his grounds, as cutting off a considerable angle of the road, and my most direct way; and one day in particular, but the year or day I cannot remember, passing through his farm-yard, I expostulated with his wife on the state it was in, as I had frequently done before, being almost impassable for the soldiers, who must necessarily pass through it on coming out of the barn; and told her, that when Farmer Ward should pass my house, I would be glad to speak to him. He accordingly called on me, when I told him, I must insist upon it that he should have his yard cleaned, and kept so in future; and I particularly recollect, that I at the same time expressed my astonishment at seeing the whole of the glass and leading of the cooking-rooms entirely broken out, which it was impossible for him not to observe, and which I was positive were whole after the troops had evacuated the barns at Bigbury. I positively swear, that, at Michaelmas 1804, I did not receive any letter from the barrack-master general, or from any other person in the barrack department, relative to giving up any of the barns; that at Michaelmas

1804, I never shewed Farmer Ward any letter, nor had any such conversation as he swears to, relative to the barns; that I never asked him to lend me £20, nor had any such conversation as he states. I recollect, that as a matter of course I desired him, as well as the other farmers in my division, who had let their barns, to bring in his bill for rent at or about the usual times of payment known to them all, namely, on the 24th of June, and 24th of Dec., but I never in the month of May 1805, or at any other time, before or since, received or asked from him or any other person, one farthing, either in money or notes, out of either his or their rent or carting money. I never at that time, or any other, had the conversation with him to which he swears, and positively swear that the whole is a villainous fabrication, and entirely groundless. One day as I was going to Princole, on duty, I met Farmer Ward (I cannot swear to the day or the month, but both can be ascertained by my letter to Mr. Wilkins) who addressed me in a dejected manner, telling me, that he had suffered severe losses from his horses having died; that he was distressed for money to replace them; that he believed he should be able to get it if I would give him a letter to Mr. Wilkins, banker, of Newport, assuring him that I would stop the rent of his barn to the amount of the sum advanced, to indemnify him. I complied with his request, and gave him the letter, by which he obtained the money, and for which he expressed himself very grateful; but I solemnly protest that I complied with his desire from feelings of commiseration, and without receiving from him the least fee or reward. I have received at different times presents of poultry, pigs, and hay, and also from other farmers received presents of a similar kind, as civilities arising in the country out of neighbourhood, and I am positive that other barrack-masters have received similar presents, not conceiving that the slightest criminality could attach to any man's doing so. Early in January 1806, I called on Farmer Ward on my way to the barracks, and recollecting his carting bill, told him I was come to pay him, upon which he opened the door of his parlour, the room I was always shewn into; the outward door opened into his kitchen, and from this kitchen you stepped directly into his parlour, which Farmer Ward says, in his affidavit, was a private room I gave him five pounds in small notes at the window, and not having silver in my pocket, said to him, "Ward I must owe you five shillings;" to which he answered, "It will do at any other time, Sir." He then called to his son, who was in the kitchen, for the pen and ink, and asked me to write the copy of receipt. I told him I should word it to him, and to the best of my recollection it was his son, not Ward, who wrote the receipt, which was witnessed by the son; (that receipt must be now in the barrack-office, and I call on the barrack-office to produce it) There is not an individual, however stupid, in the island, who had any transactions with the barrack-master for rent or otherwise, who did not know that Captain Bygrave was the head of the barrack department in the island. I further state, that I would as soon have requested a loan of money from Farmer Ward as Farmer Smith, did I consider him in circumstances to lend it.—In the most positive terms I declare (and I refer to the barrack-office accounts for the truth of my declaration) that neither Farmer Kent nor Harvey ever carted for my barracks at Sandown, as is implied in his (Ward's) declaration, where he asserts that I told him, they had given me their cartage-money. And I here declare a fact, which I intended to have mentioned before, that in return for Ward's civilities to me, I made him a present of a horse, which he had in his possession on the day I quitted the island, and which I verily believe he has yet.—*(Signed)*—Becher Westropp Atkins.

Sworn before me, this 27th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1806.—*(Signed)*—John Collick, J. P.

N.B. Harriet Atkins and Mary Atkins, confirm, by another affidavit, the truth of all that Mr. Atkins avers them to have seen or heard.

PUBLIC PAPERS.

Peace in India.—*From the Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary; dated Fort William, Jan. 27, 1806.*

A Dispatch, from the Governor General, to the Hon. G. Udny, Vice-President in Council.

Concluded from page 191.

To be forwarded to the Maharajah Dowlut Row Scindiah, and has received from the said Moonshee Kavil Nyne, a counterpart of the said treaty, signed and sealed by the said Moonshee, Lieut.-Col. John Malcolm engages that a copy of the said treaty, ratified by the Hon. the Governor-General, in every respect a counterpart of the treaty now executed by himself, shall be delivered to Moonshee Kavil Nyne, to be forwarded to the Maharajah, within the period of one month from this date, and on the delivery of such copy to the Maharajah, the treaty

executed by Lieut.-Col. John Malcolm, under the immediate direction of the right hon Lord Lake, shall be returned; and Moonshee Kavil Nyne, in like manner engages that another copy of the said treaty, ratified by the Maharajah Ali Jah Dowlut Row Scindiah, in every respect a counterpart of the treaty now executed] by himself, shall be delivered to Lieut.-Col. John Malcolm, to be forwarded to the Hon. the Governor-General, within the period of one month from this date, and on the delivery of such copy to the Hon. the Governor-General, the treaty executed by Moonshee Kavil Nyne, byvirtue of the full powers and authority vested in him, as above-mentioned, shall also be returned.—Done at Mustafahpoor, this 22d. day of Nov. Anno 1805, or 29th. of Shaban, in the year of the Hijerah 1220. — (Signed) JOHN MALCOLM.—KAVIL NYNE.

Declaratory Articles annexed to the Treaty concluded between the Right Honourable Lord Lake, on the Part of the Honourable Company, and Maharajah Dowlut Row Scindiah, on the 22d of November, 1805.

Whereas objections have arisen to the terms of the 5th, 6th, and 7th Articles of the aforesaid treaty, it is hereby agreed and declared, that in lieu of those three articles, the two following shall be substituted.—Art. I. With a view to prevent any misunderstanding relating to the respective possessions of the Hon. Company and Maharajah Dowlut Row Scindiah, in the quarters of Hindostan; the Maharajah hereby agrees to cede to the Hon. Company all the territory north of the river Chumbul, which was ceded to the Maharajah by the 7th article of the treaty of Serjee Anjengaum, that is to say, the whole of the districts of Dholepore, Barree and Rajah Kerrah; and the Hon. Company shall have no claim or right to any rule, tribute, revenues or possessions on the south bank of that river. The Talooks of Bhadek and Sooseperarah, which are on the banks of the Jumna, will however remain in the possession of the Hon. Company.—Art. II. The Hon. Company, from friendship to the Maharajah, agree to grant to him personally and exclusively the annual sum of four lacks of rupees, to be paid by quarterly instalments, through the resident at the Durbar; and the Hon. Company also agree to assign within their territories in Hindostan, a Jaggeer (to be holden on the same footing as that enjoyed by Balla Bhye) amounting to a revenue of two lacks of rupees per annum, to Baeezah Bhye, the wife of Dowlut Row Scindiah; and a Jaggeer amounting to one lack of rupees per annum to Cumnah Bhye, the daughter of that chief. Done at Illahabad, this 3d day of Dec. 1805. (Signed)—G. H. BARLOW. Published by order of the hon. the Vice-President in Council. THOS. BROWN, Acting Chief Sec. to the Govt.

Fort William, Feb. 5, 1806.—A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, has been this day received from the hon. the Governor-General, by the hon. the Vice-President in Council, and is now published, together with the treaty concluded between the British Government and Jeswunt Rao Holkar, on the 24th of December, 1805, and the Declaratory Articles annexed to it, for general information.

To the Hon. George Udny, Esq, Vice President in Council.

Honourable Sir;——My separate dispatch of this day conveys a copy of a treaty of peace and amity concluded by the Right Hon. Lord Lake, with Jeswunt Rao Holkar, on the 24th of Dec. 1805, under my instructions, together with a copy of a declaratory article, which, on the ground stated in that dispatch, I deemed it expedient to annex to the treaty.—2. The treaty having been duly ratified by Holkar, I request that you will be pleased to direct the immediate publication of it, and of the declaratory articles annexed to it, for general information.——3. I consider it unnecessary to postpone this measure until the receipt of the declaratory article ratified by Holkar, as it contains a relinquishment of the concessions made by that chieftain, under the second article of the treaty, without requiring any equivalent, and consequently the mere delivery of the declaratory article to Holkar, will answer the purpose for which it was framed.——I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed) G. H. BARLOW.——On the River, Feb. 2, 1806.

Treaty of Peace and Amity between the British Government and Jeswunt Rao Holkar.

Whereas disagreement has arisen between the British government and Jeswunt Rao Holkar, and it is now the desire of both parties to restore mutual harmony and concord, the following articles of agreement are therefore concluded between Lieut. Col. John Malcolm, on the part of the Hon. Company, and Shaikh Hubeeb Oolla and Bala Ram Seit, on the part of J. R. Holkar; the said Lieut. Col. John Malcolm having special authority for that purpose from the Right Hon. Lord Lake, Commander in Chief, &c. His Lordship aforesaid, being invested with full powers and authority from the Hon. Sir Gr. H. Barlow, Bart. Gov. Gen.

&c. and the said Sheik Hubeeb Oolla and Bala Ram Seit, also duly invested with full powers on the part of J. R. Holkar.—Art. I. The British government engages to abstain from the prosecution of hostilities against J. R. Holkar, and to consider him henceforward as the friend of the Hon. Company; J. R. Holkar agreeing on his part, to abstain from all measures and proceedings of an hostile nature, against the British government and its allies, and from all measures and proceedings in any manner directed to the injury of the British government, or it allies. —Art. II. J. R. Holkar hereby renounces all right and title to the districts of Tonk Rampoorah, Boondee, Lakherie, Sumeydee, Bhamundgaun, Daee, and other places North of the Boondee Hills, and now in the occupation of the British government.—— Art. III. The Hon. Company hereby engage to have no concern with the ancient possessions of the Holkar family in Mewar, Malwa, and Harrowtee, or with any of the Rajahs, situated to the South of the Chumbul, and the Hon. Company agree to deliver over immediately to J. R. Holkar, such of the ancient possessions of the Holkar family in the Dekhan, now in the occupation of the Hon. Company, as are South of the River Taptee, with the exception of the Fort and Pergunnah of Chandore, the Pergunnah Ambar and Seagham, and the Villages and Pergunnahs situated to the Southward of the river Godavery, which will remain in possession of the Hon. Company. The Hon. Company, however, in consideration of the respectabiliy of the Holkar family, further engage, that in the event of the conduct of J. R. Holkar being such as to satisfy that state of his amicable and peaceable intentions towards the British government and its allies; it will, at the expiration of eighteen months from the date of this treaty, restore to the family of Holkar, the Fort of Chandore and its district, the Pergunnahs of Ambar and Seagham, and the districts formerly belonging to the Holkar family, situated to the South of the Godavery.—Art. IV. J. R. Holkar hereby renounces all claims to the district of Koonch, in the Province of Bundlecund, and all claims of every description in that Province; but in the event of the conduct of J. R. Holkar being such as to satisfy the British government of his amicable intentions towards that state and its allies, the Hon. Company agree, at the expiration of two years from the date of this treaty, to give the district of Koonch in Jagghire to Beemah Bhye, the daughter of J. R. Holkar, to be holden under the Company's government, on the same terms as that now enjoyed by Bhalla Bye.—Art. V. J. R. Holkar hereby renounces all claims of every description upon the British government and its allies.—Art. VI. J. R. Holkar hereby engages never to entertain in his service Europeans of any description, whether British subjects or others, without the consent of the British government.—Art. VII. J. R. Holkar hereby engages not to admit into his council or service, Serjee Rao Ghautka, as that individual has been proclaimed an enemy to the British government——Art. VIII. Upon the foregoing conditions, J. R. Holkar shall be permitted to return to Indostan, without being molested by the British government, and the British government will not interfere in any manner in the concerns of J. R. Holkar. It is, however, stipulated, that J. R. Holkar shall immediately upon this treaty being signed and ratified, proceed towards Hindostan by a route which leaves the towns of Putteala, Khytult, Iheend, and the countries of the Hon. Company and the Rajah of Jypoor, on the left, and J. R. Holkar engages on his route to make his troops abstain from plunder, and that they shall commit no act of hostility in any of the countries through which they may pass.——Art. IX. This treaty, consisting of nine articles, being this day settled by Lieut. Col. John Malcolm, on the prrt of the Hon. Company, and Shaikh Hubeeb Oolla, and Bala Ram Seit; on the part of J. R. Holkar, Lieut. Col. John Malcolm has delivered one copy thereof in Persian and English, signed and sealed by himself, and confirmed by the seal and signature of the Right Hon. Lord Lake, to the said Shaikh Hubeeb Oolla and Bala Ram Seit, who, on their part, have delivered to Lieut. Col. John Malcolm, a counterpart of the same, signed and sealed by themselves, and engage to deliver another copy thereof duly ratified by J. R. Holkar to the Right Hon. Lord Lake, in the space of three days, the said Lieut. Col. John Malcolm also engages to deliver to them a counterpart of the same, duly ratified by the Hon. the Governor General in Council, within the space of one month from this date.—— Done in Camp at Raipoor Ghaut, on the Banks of the Bheah River, this 24th Day of Dec. 1805, corresponding with the Second of Shawaul, in the year of the Hijerah 1220. (Signed) JOHN MALCOLM. SHAIKH HUBEEB OOLLA. BALA RAM SEIT.

Declaratory Articles annexed to the Treaty of Peace and Amity, concluded between the British Government and Maharajah Jesuwut Rao Holkar, through the Agency of the Right Hon. Lord Lake, on the 24th Dec. 1805.

Whereas by the 2d article of the above-

mentioned treaty, Maharajah J. R. Holkar renounces all right and title to the districts of Tonk Rampoora, Boondee, Leckherree, Sumeydee, Bhamungaun, Daee, and other places north of the Bondee Hills, and now in the occupation of the British government. And whereas it has been understood that the Maharajah attaches great value to the district of Tonk Rampoorah and other districts in that vicinity, which constituted the antient possessions of the Holkar family; and the relations of amity and peace being now happily restored between the British government and M. J. R. Holkar, the British government is desirous of gratifying the wishes of the Maharajah to the utmost practicable extent, consistent with considerations of equity, and of manifesting its solicitude to cultivate the friendship and goodwill of the Maharajah, therefore the British government thereby agrees to consider the provisions of the 2d article of the treaty aforesaid, to be void and of no effect, and to relinquish all claim to the districts of Tonk Rampoorah, and such other districts in their vicinity, as were formerly in the possession of the Holkar family, and are now in the occupation of the British government.—Done on the River Ganges, the 2d day of Feb. 1806. (Signed) G. H. Barlow.—Published by order of the Hon. the Vice President in Council. —— Thomas Brown, Acting Chief Secretary to the Government.

Prussia.——*Copy of a Letter transmitted by Mr. Jackson to Count Haugwitz, dated 19th April*, 1806.

The undersigned Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his Britannic Majesty, has not delayed to forward to his court, the note which had been transmitted to him on the 27th of last month, by order of his Prussian Majesty; and which has been also presented by the Envoy of Prussia at London, to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—This note announces, on the part of his Prussian Majesty, such measures as are totally incompatible with those ties of friendship which have subsisted for so long a period, and with such mutual advantage, between the two states, and which the King has ardently desired to cultivate and draw still closer, by all the means in his power. It is, therefore, with the most lively regret, that his Majesty finds himself compelled by circumstances which no interference of his could prevent, to command the undersigned to remove without delay from Berlin.—The undersigned has the honour to address himself, in consequence, to the Count Haugwitz, Minister of State, and of the Cabinet of his Prussian Majesty, to request that he will order the necessary passports to be expedited for his return to England, with the different persons attached to his mission.—He is desirous at the same time to renew to his Excellency, the assurance of his high consideration. (Signed) Jackson.

Prussia.——*By the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c.*

The Right Honourable William Windham, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, having by his letter of the 11th instant, acquainted us, that his Majesty had been pleased to order letters of marque and reprisals to be issued against the ships, vessels, and goods of Prussia, as well as of the town of Papenburgh; and at the same time signified to us his Majesty's pleasure, that we should give orders to all admirals and commanders of his Majesty's ships and vessels, wherever they may be stationed, to seize or destroy all ships or vessels belonging to Prussia, and to the town of Papenburgh, save and except any ships or vessels to which his Majesty's licence has been granted, or which have been directed to be released from embargo: we do, in pursuance of his Majesty's pleasure signified to us as aforesaid, hereby require and direct you to seize or destroy all ships or vessels belonging to Prussia, and to the town of Papenburgh, which you may be able to fall in with, save and except any ships or vessels to which his Majesty's licence has been granted, or which have been directed to be released from the embargo, accordingly; and to give the like directions to all the officers employed under your command.——Given under our hands, the 29th of May, 1803.——To the respective flag officers, captains, commanders, and commanding officers of his Majesty's ships and vessels.

Parliamentary Debates.

The Sixth Volume of the Parliamentary Debates comprising the period between the 21st of January and the 6th of May, 1806, is ready for delivery, and may be had of the publisher, R. Bagshaw, Bow Street, Covent-Garden, and of J. Budd, Pall Mall. The Seventh Volume which will close the Debates of the Session, and which will contain the Financial Accounts and other Documents connected with the Proceedings in Parliament during the Session, will be published on the 1st of September.

Printed by Cox and Baylis, No. 75, Great Queen Street, and published by R. Bagshaw, Bow Street, Covent Garden where former Numbers may be had; sold also by J. Budd, Crown and Mitre, Pall-Mall.